

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. An ice maker, comprising:

first and second pulleys installed to be spaced apart from each other;

a drive unit to rotate the first and second pulleys;

an ice making conveyor wrapped around the first and second pulleys, and having a plurality of ice making parts which are concavely formed to contain water therein;

10 an ice storage tray provided under the ice making conveyor to store ice cubes dropping from the ice making parts; and

an ice level sensing unit to sense a level of the ice cubes stored in the ice storage tray, thus shutting off electricity.

15 2. The ice maker according to claim 1, wherein the ice level sensing unit comprises:

a sensing lever moving up and down in a see-saw manner;

a cam rotated by a force transmitted from the drive unit to move the sensing lever up and down; and

20 a switch pressed by the sensing lever to turn on or off the electricity.

3. The ice maker according to claim 2, wherein the sensing lever comprises a bar of a predetermined length, the bar comprising:

a hinge part provided at a middle portion of the bar to allow the bar to move up

25 and down relative to the hinge part;

a sensing part provided at a first side of the bar around the hinge part to be supported by the ice cubes stored in the ice storage tray; and

a lever part provided at a second side of the bar which is opposite to the sensing part, the lever part being operated by the force of the drive unit transmitted through the
5 cam to move the bar up and down.

4. The ice maker according to claim 3, wherein the lever part comprises, at an end thereof, a pressing part having a circular cross-section to be operated by the force of the drive unit transmitted through the cam, thus pressing the switch down.

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5. The ice maker according to claim 2, wherein the cam is rotated by the force of the drive unit transmitted through the first and second pulleys which are rotated by the drive unit, with a projection part being provided at a predetermined portion of the cam to apply the force to the lever part according to a rotating angle of the cam.

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6. The ice maker according to claim 2, wherein the switch shuts off the electricity, when the switch is pressed down by the sensing lever over a predetermined period.